

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 12798 01 OF 02 041952Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 EB-08 AID-05 COME-00  
FRB-03 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04  
SIL-01 OMB-01 /082 W  
-----091095 042025Z /72

R 041912Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0353  
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12798

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, GW  
SUBJECT: SPD: RECENT INTERNECINE EVENTS

1. SUMMARY. TWO RECENT CASES OF INFIGHTING WITHIN GERMANY'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD) TYPIFY THE TYPE OF INTERNECINE PROBLEMS FACING THE PARTY AND ITS LEADERSHIP. ONE CASE BEGAN WITH ACERBIC PRESS ATTACKS BY A LEFT-WING PARTY FIGURE AGAINST THE SPD LEADERSHIP, ACCUSED OF PURSUING A "CAPITALISTIC" ECONOMIC POLICY, AND HAS EVOLVED INTO A FLURRY OF COUNTER CHARGES, OFTEN AD HOMINEM IN NATURE. THE OTHER CASE CENTERS ON WHETHER OR NOT RADICAL, MARXIST-ORIENTED MEMBERS HAVE A PLACE IN THE PARTY'S RANKS. IT HAS ALSO GIVEN RISE TO A SIDESHOW OF PERSONAL EXCHANGES AND ACCUSATIONS BY LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLITICAL FIGURES. OVER TIME, SUCH VISIBLE AND OFTEN DISTASTEFUL QUARRELING HAS ITS POLITICAL COST AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 12798 01 OF 02 041952Z

COMPOUNDS THE PROBLEMS FACING THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT.  
END SUMMARY.

2. THE STEFFEN EPISODE. AILING 55-YEAR OLD JOCHEN STEFFEN IS FORMER SPD CHIEF OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, A PROFESSIONAL LEFTIST AND THE ERSTWHILE IDOL OF THE SPD

LEFT WING, STILL WIDELY CALLED "RED" STEFFEN. IN LATE JULY, STEFFEN LAUNCHED A VITRIOLIC MAGAZINE ATTACK ON THE SPD, FOCUSING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY. HE CHARGED THAT THE SPD AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE TOO CAPITALISTIC TO PERMIT THE BASIC STRUCTURAL CHANGES, NATIONALIZATION, AND REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH NEEDED FOR STEMMING UNEMPLOYMENT. STEFFEN ROUNDLY CONDEMNED THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, RESERVING THE SHARPEST WORDS FOR THE PARTY'S POWERFUL PARLIAMENTARY CHAIRMAN, AGING HERBERT WEHNER, A FORMER COMMUNIST PARTY (KPD) MEMBER, WHOM STEFFEN CALLED A RIGHTWARD-LEANING "LACKEY OF CAPITALISM." IN LAUNCHING HIS CRITICISM, STEFFEN ALSO SAID HE WOULD NOT SEEK TO RETAIN HIS SEAT ON THE SPD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. SOON THEREAFTER, HE WAS CALLED ON TO RESIGN THAT SEAT BY THE PARTY TREASURER AND ACTING (IN BAHR'S STEAD) SPD BUSINESS MANAGER, DROSCHE. AT THE SAME TIME, STEFFEN WAS UPHELD BY THE LOCAL SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN PARTY LEADERSHIP, AND BY THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS (JUSOS). PROMINENT SPD DEPUTY CONRAD AHLERS COMMENTED THAT STEFFEN IN FACT REPRESENTS THE "TOP OF THE ICEBERG" OF DISCONTENT WITHIN THE SPD WITH PARTY LEADERSHIP, AND THAT A SERIOUS SIGN OF SPD WEAKNESS IS EVIDENCED BY THE FAILURE OF TOP SPD LEADERS TO REACT PUBLICLY TO STEFFEN'S ATTACK.

3. THE STAMOKAP FLURRY. IN THE WAKE OF KLAUS UWE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 12798 01 OF 02 041952Z

BENNETER'S RECENT REMOVAL AS HEAD OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS (JUSOS) AND OUSTER FROM THE PARTY AT THE BEHEST OF SPD LEADERSHIP, A PARTY QUARREL HAS ARISEN ON WHETHER OR

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 12798 02 OF 02 041952Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 EB-08 AID-05 COME-00  
FRB-03 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 /082 W

-----091099 042024Z /72

R 041912Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0354  
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12798

NOT TO PERMIT OTHER PROFESSED MEMBERS OF THE DOCTRINAIRE MARXIST FACTION, THE SO-CALLED STAMOKAP (STATE MONOPOLY CAPITALISM) ADHERENTS, TO REMAIN IN THE SPD. THE HAMBURG SPD UNION, FOR EXAMPLE, VOTED TO OUST 56 PARTY MEMBERS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE SYMPATHETIC TO BENNETER. SPD NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AND LOWER SAXONY SPD CHAIRMAN PETER VON OERTZEN, A PROMINENT FIGURE IN THE SPD'S LEFT, THEN STRONGLY DEFENDED THE RIGHT OF STAMOKAP MEMBERS TO REMAIN IN THE PARTY, STATING THAT THEY MAKE GOOD PARTY MEMBERS WHOSE VIEWS ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE SPD'S OVERALL PROGRAM. MUNICH'S MAYOR, GEORG KRONAWITTER, A VIGOROUS RIGHTIST IN LOCAL SPD CIRCLES, CRITICIZED VON OERTZEN AND CALLED FOR THE EXPULSION OF STAMOKAPS (SEE MUNICH'S 2188, 2248). SPD BUSINESS MANAGER EGON BAHR THEREUPON CRITICIZED KRONA-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 12798 02 OF 02 041952Z

WITTER FOR HIS ATTACK ON VON OERTZEN, WHILE BENNETER'S PREDECESSOR AS JUSO PRESIDENT, HEIDI WIECZORYK-ZEUL, JOINED IN TO SAY THAT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO KEEP ITS DISTANCE FROM THE STAMOKAPS. THE UPSHOT AT THE START OF THE AUGUST VACATION SEASON IS THAT THE SPD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN EARLY SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS HOW TO HANDLE THE STAMOKAPS.

4. COMMENT: THESE EPISODES ARE PARTLY THEATRICAL IN NATURE AND HAVE BEEN MAGNIFIED BY THE PRESS AT THE START OF THE SUMMER DOLDRUMS. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY REFLECT BASIC PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE SPD. THEY ALSO UNDERSCORE A CONTINUING CHALLENGE THE PARTY'S LEADERS FACE IN DEALING WITH EXTREME AND DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS -- TO TAKE A FIRM POSITION AND EXCLUDE OR EXPEL THESE ELEMENTS, OR TO ADOPT A TOLERANT STANCE CONSISTENT

WITH THE SPD'S SELF-IMAGE AS A BROAD, INTEGRATING HOME  
FOR DIFFERING VIEWS. EXCOMMUNICATION RUNS THE RISK OF  
HELPING FOUND A NEW PARTY OF THE LEFT; TOLERANCE CAUSES  
INTERNAL STRAINS, SETS UP AN EASY TARGET FOR THE OPPO-  
SITION, AND ALIENATES SOME MODERATE VOTERS. THESE TWO  
EPISODES ARE LIKELY TO REDOUND TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE  
CDU AND CSU LOCALLY (SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN AND MUNICH) AND  
TO ADD TO SCHMIDT'S PROBLEMS NATIONALLY. END COMMENT.  
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY SCHISMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BONN12798  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770280-0016  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BONN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770898/aaaadfjv.tel  
**Line Count:** 179  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 00b2fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1713245  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPD: RECENT INTERNECINE EVENTS  
**TAGS:** PINT, GE, SPD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/00b2fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009